

# **WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD NORTH COAST REGION**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**June and July 2002**

### *WATERSHED MANAGEMENT DIVISION*

#### **Regional Water Board Staff Assist with Sonoma County General Plan**

[Staff Contact: Lauren Clyde]

A Board of Supervisors meeting held on March 23, 2002 initiated the Sonoma County General Plan (GP 2020) process which is scheduled to be completed in late 2003 and is planned to take Sonoma County through the year 2020 although, it may be updated sooner. The current General Plan was adopted in 1989.

The County's Permit Resource Management Division (PRMD) staff is tasked with writing the General Plan. A Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC) was established to represent the interests of the community at large and it consists of 15 volunteer citizens. Policies will be written for each of the General Plan elements and taken to the CAC for approval. The CAC is tasked to meet several times during the General Plan process and to review and comment on the Draft sections of the General Plan as they are created.

The Regional Water Board's Watershed Management and Watershed Protection Division staff have been working together to provide comments to County and have met twice with PRMD staff so far during this process. Regional Water Board staff has offered assistance to PRMD in the form of providing information or resources related to water quality and the various elements of the General Plan.

PRMD staff has indicated that they would like input from Regional Water Board staff when they begin writing the various policies for elements that relate to water quality. General Plan elements that relate directly and/or indirectly to water quality issues include: Water Resources (groundwater and surface water quality), Storm Water, Package Treatment Systems, Riparian Corridor and Biological Habitat Protection, Timber Harvest and Timberland Conversion, Grading and Erosion Control, Impervious Surfaces, and Gravel Mining. Subcommittees (focus groups) were formed in June by approval of the Board of Supervisors for the

Riparian/Biological Corridor and Water Resources elements. The focus groups consist of three volunteers from the CAC and the public is encouraged to attend their monthly meetings.

Policies for each element will be taken to the CAC for approval. Subcommittees formed for the Water Resources and Riparian/Biological Corridor elements will approve the policies prior to the CAC. According to PRMD the complete list of policies should be approved between now and November 2002 and the Draft General Plan/EIR is scheduled to be released for public comment in early 2003. Public Hearings are tentatively scheduled to take place during the summer of 2003. For more information on the General Plan update visit:

[www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/gp2020](http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/gp2020)



#### **Mattole Sediment and Temperature TMDLs**

[Staff Contact: David Leland]

A draft Technical Support Document prepared by Regional Water Board staff and describing the technical basis for the sediment and temperature TMDLs will be completed and available for public review in September. This report will be released simultaneously with the public draft USEPA TMDL report. The Technical Support Document will describe the sediment and temperature problems in the Mattole watershed, the field data collected, the methods used to collect and analyze data, current sediment and temperature loading conditions in the watershed, the proposed TMDL, and TMDL load allocations. A summary of this work will be presented to the Board at the September Board meeting.

## **CLEANUPS AND SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

### **Roseland Investigation & Remediation Status**

[Staff Contacts – Bill Erdei, Stephen Bargsten]  
[Project Senior - Mark Bartson]

The Santa Rosa Cleanups Unit continues important work towards the investigation and remediation of the many contaminated groundwater sites in the Roseland Area. In February, 2002 the County of Sonoma submitted a Final Remedial Investigation Report which was the culmination of an extensive study of the Halogenated Volatile Organic Compound (HVOC) contamination emanating from the area of West Avenue and Sebastopol Road. The County's investigation provided important new information on the extent of HVOC contamination and petroleum hydrocarbon contamination in the area.

The Regional Water Board's Santa Rosa Cleanups Unit has required the nearby Responsible Parties for petroleum hydrocarbon contamination to incorporate the data from the County's Report into their investigation and remediation work. In July, the Santa Rosa Cleanups Unit approved a workplan by 3 nearby Responsible Parties (the Sebastopol Road Commingled Group) to conduct substantial work to further define the full extent of contamination from these three sites. The work will include sampling in the upper two aquifers at 12 locations which were chosen in an effort to determine the edges of the contamination that is the responsibility of these Responsible Parties. Regional Water Board staff will collect additional samples at these locations during this field work which will likely take place in early September.

In June of 2002 Regional Water Board staff met with three other nearby Responsible Parties to encourage the coordination of investigation and remediation related to petroleum hydrocarbon releases at these three sites. These Responsible Parties are considering a formal agreement to jointly investigate their contamination plumes which are, in part, commingled. This would improve the efficiency of their cleanup efforts and enable these Responsible Parties to be eligible for the "Commingled Plume Account" under the State Cleanup Fund.

## **CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDERS**

There were no Cleanup and Abatement Orders issued during the months of June and July 2002.

## **CALIFORNIA WATER CODE SECTION 13267 LETTER ORDERS**

There were two California Water Code section 13267(b) Letter Orders issued during the month of June 2002. Letters were sent to: City of Healdsburg and Pacific Lumber Company (5 Watersheds Elk River). Two California Water Code section 13267(b) Letter Orders were issued during the month of July. Letters were sent to Fairhaven Power Plant and CDOT, Bridgehaven Resort.

## **SPILLS, COMPLAINTS, AND INVESTIGATIONS**

Twenty-four complaints were received during the months of June and July 2002.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINTS/ ORDERS**

One Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Complaint was issued, and one Mandatory Minimum Penalty Complaint was issued during June and July 2002. On July 31, 2002 an ACL Complaint was issued to Hopland Public Utilities District for failing to submit 21 monitoring reports during the time from June 2000 through June 2002. The liability amount was set at \$45,000.

On July 9, 2002 a Mandatory Minimum Penalty Complaint was issued to Samoa Pacific Cellulose Company, LLC for discharged wastes in violation of its NPDES Permit. The liability amount was set at \$27,000.

## **UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANUP FUND PROGRAM**

For the month of June 2002, there has been a total of \$685,752 in funds issued to tank owners in Region 1 from the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund. There were three letters of commitment issued during the month of June 2002.

For the month of July 2002 , there has been a total of \$ 1,692,827 in funds issued to tank owners in Region 1 from the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund. There were no letters of commitment issued during the month of July 2002.

## **CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 CERTIFICATIONS**

Thirty-one new applications for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification were received in June and July 2002. Nineteen 401 Certifications and one Denial Without Prejudice were issued in June and July 2002.

Information regarding all proposed certifications is available at our Internet web site at:

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/notice404.html>

## **PUBLIC FILE REVIEW**

From June 1 through July 31, 2002, five (5) written requests were made for review of the Regional Water Board's records. These files were made available pursuant to the California Public Records Act. In addition, a total of 17 people came into the office and requested file review during the month of June 2002 and 19 people during the month of July 2002.

## **STAFF HIRING**

There were no new hires during the months of June and July.

## **SEPTEMBER REGIONAL WATER BOARD MEETING**

The Regional Water Board meeting for September is scheduled to be held in Santa Rosa on September 26, 2002.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>.